

REMARKS

The rejection of Claims 1-31 as being anticipated by Deischl et al under 35 USC § 102(b) is traversed, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Deischl et al patent is directed to an opening arrangement for a vehicle door constructed so that “in the event of an intrusion of the vehicle door because of a vehicle impact, reduces the risk of an unintentional opening of the vehicle door” (col. 1, lines 38-41). To achieve that objective, a one-piece, plastic bearing bow 6 has a pin-shaped bearing extension 9 near its rearward end as viewed in the driving direction. To present an intrusion of the outer covering 2, a torsion strut 11 is provided on a forward securing section of the bearing bow 6 forwardly of the door lock unit 7. Thereby, torsion forces can be transmitted to the interior plate 4.

In contrast, the catching device of the present invention is located downstream or rearwardly of the vehicle door lock. It is configured to prevent bulging of the vehicle’s outside panel toward the outside, something not discussed at col. 1, lines 36-50 of the Deischl et al patent as asserted in the Office Action. Component 11 in the Deischl et al patent is clearly described as a torsion strut which appears to function only when collision forces cause the outer panel to move toward the inner panel. The Office Action does not explain how or in what manner the torsion strut 11 functions as a way to prevent outward bulging of the outer panel as it appears to be connected by a screw 13 only at the inner door plate 4.

Serial No. 10/663,745
Amendment Dated: April 4, 2005
Reply to Office Action

Claims 1 and 25 now clearly point out the location of the catching device and its configuration to prevent outward bulging of the outer panel. These features are considered to patentably defined over the prior art.

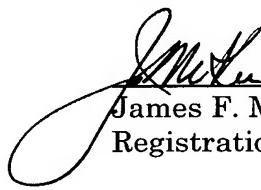
Accordingly, early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #028987.52501US).

Respectfully submitted,

April 4, 2005



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